SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I am happy that several Members have admitted that the police is active. He also said that the punishment is being given. About the private parties involved, I do not have the information with me just now. I shall look into that particular case and see what can be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question, 184.

'Greater Mizoram'

*184. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing agitation on the demand for 'Greater Mizoram'; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government is aware of the formation of the Zomi Re-unification Organisation and the Zomi Revolutionary Volunteers for the reunification of Mizo-inhabited areas of India, Burma and Bangladesh within the Union of India.

(b) The territories of States of the Union of India are defined. Considering the emotive nature of the above demand and the potential for destabilisation that it may lead to, as well as its affect on our friendly relations with neighbouring countries, a close watch is being kept on the activities of these Organisations. The State Governments of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura have been requested to take deterrent and prompt action against the illegal entrants and tighten vigil on border to check unauthorised trans-border movements.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, it has been reported that in May last the representatives of People's Conference Party led by Brigadier Sailo, People's Liberation Organization of Burma, Mizo National Congress of Manipur and representatives of Mizo organisations of Tripura and Chittagong hill tracts met at Chowchin village near Champai, a town within Burmese territory. It is also understood that the representatives have decided upon their strategy to further intensify the agitation to achieve Greater Mizoram. Sir, it is also to be taken note of that Congress (I) during the last election in Mizoram also included the demand for Greater Mizoram in their election manifesto. In this background, I would like to know whether the Government had some kind of discussion with the Government of Burma. It is also reported that the Government of Burma also expressed their concern over the possible fall-out. May I know whether the Government of Burma have suggested to the Government of India in this regard that the local permit system which is currently in vogue, which enables the Mizos to cross to other side of the international border should be abolished so that there may not be any further attempt of the Mizo guerillas or some other people to enter into the Burmese territory and continue their activities from there?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the conference was held in May at Champai, which is in India territory. It is a fact that in that conference some representatives from the Mizos of Burma also participated. But as you rightly said, traditionally within 40 km. on both sides of India-Burma border a system of permits exists. And those who came they came from that areas on the permit basis. But having learnt about this particular conference, we did tighten our security on the borders with Bangladesh and Burma and took certain steps in the territories which were adjacent to the Indian border. Nobody could attend from the other part within 40 kilometres. As regards the question whether Burma has given any thought to it and whether they have expressed their desire, well, I don't have the information with me. It must have come to the Ministry of External Affairs. I will check up and let the Member know.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that the MNF has been making some attempts to establish some contracts with

the erstwhile guerrilas now hiding in the jungles of Burma? Very recently, there was a report to the effect that Mr. Lukhanman sought to cross the border and was intercepted by the Burmese authorities. This Mr. Lukhanman was carrying some certificates or letters of introduction from some of the Ministers of Mizoram and some top leadership. Has the Government of India sought proper information from the Government of Mizoram and what has their information been in this regard?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: After the elections, the M.N.F. has come overground and they are participating in the administration and other economic and social activities in the State of Mizoram. There is no such activity by the M.N.F. The particular instance which has been cited by the hon. Member is not known to us and I don't think it is a fact.

DR. C. SILVERA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this subject is very important because the way Brigadier Silo is working might lead us to deeper trouble in Mizoram. Sir, Mizoram has gone through a period of insurgency for 20 years and it is because of the efforts of central leadership, the efforts of Mrs. Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and also because of the sacrifices of the Government in Mizoram that peace has been brought back to Mizoram. Greater Mizoram is the policy of almost all the political parties in Mizoram. The Congress Party has included greater Mizoram in their policy. But we never include the territories of Burma or Bangladesh in it. The State boundaries can be remade only according to the Constitution. Of course, it will depend on the neighbouring States also. It is the desire of the people of Mizoram and also of some Mizos in the neighbouring States that we should be in one unit. People are fed up with insurgency. The people of Mizoram are afraid of the activities of Brigadier Silo's party because of the experiences they had earlier. As the Home Minister has said, there was a meeting in Champai.

Foreign nationals also attended that political conference. May I know from the hon. Home Minister as to how many delegates from Burma and Bangladesh attended that convention and how many illegal entrants have been arrested by the State Government? Is it a fact that the Zomi Revoluntionary Volunteers are in possession of arms?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: As per Article 3 of the Constitution, it is only the Parliament which is competent to increase or diminish the areas of a State and also the boundaries of a particular State. And that has also to be approved by the State Government. As I said, Sir, the Government of India has taken a strong view about it, and we have asked the Governments of Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram to take stern action against such activities. Yes, it is a fact some of the Burmese people came and attended the meeting. As I said, roughly 50 came and that information came to us. As I said, Sir, for some particular kms. on both the sides of the boundary, permit system is allowed. And it is still in existence. On the strength of these permits, they have come. Even then, the permits are issued by the respective District Council on both the sides. This is already approved in the Accord, as well as in the past, in Manipur, it was allowed. And this is the system in vogue. Sir, I can say this much that we are not satisfied with the explanation, and we have written to the State Government to verify as the hon. has asked whether illegally some persons have come and if so what action has been taken. We have no information about the possession of arms. And they are also saying that they will have their movement through democratic methods. But, Sir, as it is a very emotional matter, we have taken a serious view. And, in fact, only three days back, myself and the hon Home Minister had a talk with the Chief Minister of Mizoram. And we have also called Brig. Sailo, the ex-Chief Minister to Delhi, to make clear from our side that such activity is not a welcome thing and that we view it very seriously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vajpayee.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय ने स्वीकार किया है कि वृहत्तर मिजोरम की मां

करने वाला सम्मेलन हुआ है । उन्होंने यह भी स्वीकार किया है कि उस सम्मेलन में भाग लेने के लिए बंगला देश से, बर्मा से प्रतिनिधि आए थे । क्या इस देश में कोई भी आकर इस तरह का अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन कर सकता है ? क्या मिजोरम की सरकार ने इस संबंध में केन्द्र को सूचित किया था । क्या केन्द्र ने मिजोरम की सरकार को सलाह दी थी कि इस तरह का सम्मेलन आयोजित नहीं होना चाहिए ? अभी तक तो श्री लाल डेंगा और उनकी पार्टी ग्रेटर मिजोरम की बात करते थे और अब यह ब्रिगेडियर साइलो भी मैदान में आ गए है । अगर दोनों में राजनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धा चलने दी गई और प्रतिस्पर्धा इस सीमा तक जायेगी कि बर्मा से मिजो हमारे देश में आकर सम्मेलन करेंगे तो इसका गंभीर परिणाम होगा । सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि जो परमिट सिस्टम है क्या डिस्ट्रिक्ट काउंसिल किसी को भी परमिट दे सकते हैं या वह किसी वैध काम के लिए जो देश में आएगा उसी के लिए ही दिया जाएगा ? इन्हें परमिट कैसे दिया गया ? मिजोरम की सरकार ने सम्मेलन का आयोजन कैसे होने दिया और केन्द्र सरकार को इस सम्मेलन के बारे में कब पता लगा ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : सभापति जी, केन्द्र सरकार को इस सम्मेलन के बारे में सूचना थी और मिजोरम सरकार को भी इस सम्मेलन के बारे में सूचना थी। ज्वांइंटली केन्द्र सरकार ने मिजोरम सरकार को, मणिपुर सरकार को, आसाम राइफलज़ के डी.जी. को सबको सूचित किया था कि इसके बारे में क्या-क्या उपाय करने चाहिए और क्या-क्या कदम लेने चाहिए और उसमें शामिल थे :

To deploy Mizoram Police and the Mizoram Armed Police at Champai for law and order duties, to launch a drive against illegal entrants with immediate effect so as to serve as a deterrent against the Burmese trying to cross over to Mizoram to attend the above convention, to stop issuing permits to the Burmese nationals around the period of the proposed convention, to detect illegal entrants already in Mizoram, to take suitable legal action against them without attracting undue publicity. Various other steps to the taken were told to the Assam Rifles. But, Sir, as the hon. Member himself was a Minister for External Affairs for a bring spell, he knwos the situation on the Burma border.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We never allowed such a conference.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: It is not a conference of the Burmese. It is a conference by Mr. Sailo, his own party. But some of the Burmese participated in it. And he knows the situation on the Burmese border. Under the present arrangement, upto 40 kms. on both the sides, people are allowed. People from this part of the border, from our side, go to the Burmese territory and their people also come to our side. But, as I just now mentioned, Sir, it is only a permit system. And the officer on the spot can give the permit. This arrangement which is continuing is nothing new. The officer on the spot can give the permit to a Burmese to enter India up to 40 kms. Similarly, the Indians on the other side can enter the Burmese territory because same tribe, same people. This arrangement has been going on. And also in those days when this convention was on we restricted...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: ... but the Burmese could come through other States. It was very difficult to control.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.